

LANCE TATUM
PRESIDENTIAL
TIMELINE

February 2 -16

Final four
candidates visit
campus

March 1

Lance Tatum
announced as
president

March 16

Induction ceremony
with Board of
Regents

June 1

Tatum starts tenure
as President

August 16

First State of the
University address

Spring 2024

Tatum's Inauguration

GRAPHIC BY
SIDNEY LOWRY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



FILE

Northwest's 11th President Lance Tatum sits with the Northwest Board of Regents at the March 16 induction ceremony. Tatum is nearing the end of his first 100 days as president and has outlined goals for him to address during his tenure.

NW President talks plan for success

SIDNEY LOWRY

Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

Just over two and a half months ago, Lance Tatum began his tenure as Northwest's 11th president. As his first 100 days near an end, Tatum said he has many goals and plans for the future of the University.

While he continues into his first year of presidency, Tatum wants to focus on enrollment, retention and working on campus infrastructure.

Before he made these plans, Tatum had to get to know the University and the people within it. He said a lot of the time during the first months was listening to people who have been at Northwest longer than him.

"Part of what I wanted to do, from the very beginning, is to work on this idea of accessibility and approachability," he said. "And so I don't think that happens if you sit in your office all the time, and you don't get out."

Tatum had a transition team for him during

these first 100 days composed of members from the Northwest Leadership Team, members from the Board of Regents and many others from departments throughout the University.

The transition team met three times throughout the summer to help give Tatum different outlooks from different parts of the University. During that time, Tatum listened to people about their new ideas and what things they thought Northwest offered that made it a unique institution.

"So, what came out really, which was great in my mind, was the same types of feelings and understandings that I got from others and that was this place is about family," he said. "You know, it's a very closely connected community, the University is. So family's important here."

Tatum addressed Northwest faculty and staff at the All-Employee Meeting Aug. 16 and outlined his and other team members at Northwest's efforts toward retention, enrollment and a plan for infrastructure.

Retention and Enrollment

Despite it being the fifth consecutive year overall headcount has increased, and is on target for fall enrollment to grow, he credited it to an increase in international enrollment.

Since his first appearance on campus as a part of the panels for the final four candidates, Tatum has had enrollment efforts on his mind. When looking at enrollment, he said the largest drop off has been in enrollment from out-of-state students.

At the All-Employee Meeting, Tatum said there was a new scholarship model being introduced to become more competitive with out-of-state schools when recruiting for Northwest.

"I think that the location of Northwest Missouri State is a key part of the conversation," Tatum said. "We're not in the middle of the state. So, you know, you're looking at a recruiting strategy that has to take into account multiple states, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and the state of Missouri."

SEE PRESIDENT | A4

Parking
permit
payment
system
changes

SIDNEY LOWRY

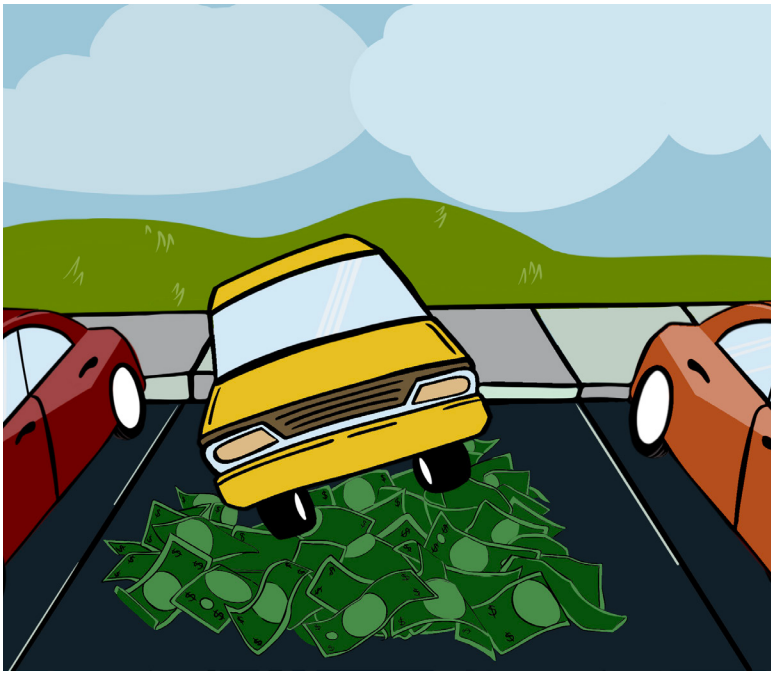
Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

As students started preparing for the fall semester, one of the many items on their to-do list was to purchase a parking pass, but this year the process was different.

In January, Northwest transferred to a new system for parking permits and ticketing, which now allows students to see more information online, but requires students, faculty and staff to purchase their parking permits out-of-pocket rather than having the option to add it to their Northwest bill.

Lieutenant Amanda Cullin said this change was to help streamline data for the parking system and help with the process of appealing tickets.

"Honestly, the feedback has



GRAPHIC BY JULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR

been both positive and negative as with everything," Cullin said. "There were some concerns with not being able to put it on our Northwest bill."

In previous years, people purchasing a parking permit were able to put it on their Northwest account, where it could either be covered by financial aid or could be paid off in increments.

With the change in system, when those purchasing their parking passes went to enter their personal and vehicle information, they were met with a page asking

for payment information before they could finish registration.

Student parking decals or hang tags are \$90 for the year, which is no change from fall 2022. Employee decals have decreased from \$115 to \$90. Cullin said there have only been a small number of people who have mentioned a problem with being able to pay for their parking permits, as well as a low number of people who want to pay for their parking permits with cash, which is not an option.

SEE PARKING | A4

Tentative opening dates set
for new dining options, staff
talks construction setbacks

HANNAH CLAYWELL

News Editor | @Hannah_9504

The new dining provider, Sodexo, is on campus and getting things running for the new year, but not all the dining options students were expecting are open yet.

There are tentative dates set for the restaurants to open up. Qdoba is set to open near Sept. 18 and McAlister's Deli and the UCook kitchen a few weeks following that. The ghost kitchen does not have a set frame, and the Buffalo Wild Wings is still set to open in the spring 2024 semester.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker and Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs: Residential and Auxiliary Services Rose Viau have been active parts of this transition. Sodexo General Manager Casey Benton said there was a lot of planning that went into changing dining providers, but the timing didn't happen the way he had hoped.

"Feeding the masses takes clear and precise planning, everything from scheduling the staff, to ordering the food to all of the production, the technical de-

livery of our operation is critical each and every day," Benton said in an email to The Missourian.

The new on campus restaurants and services, excluding Buffalo Wild Wings, were set to be open this fall when students got back on campus. Viau said there were some issues with the construction.

"There have been some hiccups with some of the retail venues and some of the construction work, but I think that's a pretty normal experience as we go through a transition after 43 years with one dining provider," Baker said.

Baker said by mid June they knew things were going to have to be pushed back. Benton said being transparent with the students is key as things change, and he wants to make sure the right information is going out.

The seating currently closed in the back of the Bearcat Commons is not because of Sodexo, but Northwest doing some repairs. There was a leak from the outside seating area at the J.W. Jones Student Union that worked its way downstairs.

SEE PROBLEMS | A4

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ADVANTAGE WEEK 2023

ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR

Kenzie Meyer, Jessica Baumker and Genevieve Plum all sit and watch the annual Northwest firework display to kick off the school year Aug. 20. Students of all grade levels gather to the west side of campus to watch and celebrate the fireworks.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR

After the Aug. 20 RHA Color War concluded, Wiam Kitar laughs as she looks down at herself and sees all of the colored paint she was splattered with. Advange Week events help bring students together to make new friends.



NIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER

Northwest President Lance Tatum addresses eager new Bearcats at Convocation Aug. 18.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR

Letitia Biermann-Oswald smiles as she helps her son Noah Oswald move into his first college dorm Aug. 17. Once students settled into their dorm, Advantage Week festivities began.



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR

The Bearcat Marching Band lined up in front of the Memorial Bell Tower playing its favorite fight songs for the new freshmen during Convocation Aug. 18. This is one of the first performances the band has of the year.

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Freshmen attend new sex education program

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

The program “Sex Rules” was shared with freshmen Northwest students Aug. 19 for the first time at Northwest. This was a change from the “Can I Kiss You?” program all upperclassmen have attended during their Advantage Week.

Assistant Director of Orientation Brandi Bix said the change happened after Wellness Educator Isabelle Talkington came back from an event with some ideas for this program.

“It was changed just to get a different viewpoint,” Bix said. “... It doesn’t mean it won’t change back to who it was before.”

“Sex Rules” is a program about sex, sexuality and sexual assault prevention and awareness. Briana Hansen created this program, and Bri Fitzpatrick gave the presentation. This program goes to colleges all around the United States to educate students and give a 75 minute interactive presentation.

Both Hansen and Fitzpatrick are sexual assault survivors themselves and said that is a part of the reason they are so passionate about this program

and spreading awareness, not only about sexual assault, but sex and sexuality as well.

“The goal being, as a sexual assault survivor myself, making sure that there is a lecture that can be contextualized, is all encompassing, is fun, but also makes other survivors feel like they’re seen,” Hansen said.

During the presentation, Fitzpatrick talked about sex rules and how students can keep themselves comfortable and protected. There were also interactive parts for students to get involved.

Bix said putting everything together to get ready for this program was a joint effort between many of Northwest’s departments. Assistant Vice President of Title IX and Equity Stephanie Krauth and two wellness counselors were at the event to offer support to any students that may have needed it.

Fitzpatrick said she did the best she could do to be sensitive and make sure survivors in the audience were comfortable and knew about the resources available to them, both campus and public.

“I also share with the audience that I’m a survivor myself, and that I recognize and the cre-

ators of this program recognize that everybody’s healing journey is totally different,” Fitzpatrick said. “... There is no problem with needing to take a break.”

Both Hansen and Fitzpatrick said one of their favorite parts is the audience interaction. Fitzpatrick said the interactions break up the presentation and keep students engaged.

“I have seen attitudes towards believing survivors and watching how we frame gender expectations, things like that, I’ve seen them shift,” Fitzpatrick said. “I think this generation is going to continue to shift them. So it’s so cool to kind of feel like I’m actively a part of that.”

Hansen said she wanted students to leave feeling like they saw a motivational speech and an educational program at the same time. She said one of their goals is to make it feel like a comfortable conversation and keep from triggering anyone.

“Students, at the end of the day, have the right to make their own decisions,” Bix said. “And we just want to give them the tools and resources to be protected if they do or give them the resources to decline any advances.”



ALLISON DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Bri Fitzpatrick delivers her “Sex Rules” presentation to the freshman class. Students appear attentive to this year’s new presentation.

Telehealth stations introduced to local schools

SIDNEY LOWRY
Editor-in-Chief | @sidney_lowry

The fourth week of August brought the first day of classes for Northwest, but also the first day for many schools in northwest Missouri. As the beginning of the year brings new changes, one difference will be the mental healthcare that students can receive this year.

The Northwest Missouri Cooperative Mental Health Board in partnership with Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville have worked together to provide 16 schools in Gentry, Holt, Nodaway and Worth counties with telehealth units.

The planning of adding these units into schools started December last year, and the plan is to roll them out in three phases. Associate Circuit Court Judge Robert Rice has been serving as the de facto director for the Board until a director is hired and said the placement of schools in each phase was to get one telehealth unit to each school district and based on need seen by first responders and local hospitals.

“The number of kids from Maryville Middle School that were going to Mosaic on a mental health crisis would break your heart,” Rice said. “It was a substantial number and because there are so many kids coming from the middle school over the past calendar year, they felt that it was best to get something there because that’s the highest need area.”

Each of these units cost just over \$2,000. Community Relations Manager of Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville Kelsi Meyer said the cost of these units come from the board, the St. Francis Foundation and a mental health

grant from University of Missouri - Kansas City to help apply these units in each school.

The original project outlined the first phase starting Aug. 21, but has had to be delayed due to a change in the electronic medical records software used, called EPIC. The new timeline of the project is hoping to have all these implemented into schools by the end of the first quarter. Despite this delay, there is a list of patients that qualify from each school district, and all consent forms for treatment have been created.

“The key all along has been to focus on care for both

“

I like to look at this issue as we are going through the process of determining what tools we have in the toolbox.”

ROBERT RICE
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE

students, our providers, allwhile keeping quality and patient privacy at top of mind,” Meyer said in an email to The Missourian.

Rice said the implementation of these telehealth

units has been warmly received by the public, and he thinks it is helping take the stigma away from talking about what resources local counties have for mental health.

“I like to look at this issue as we are going through the process of determining what tools we have in the toolbox,” he said.

When it comes to looking at what resources Nodaway County has in its toolbox, making an accessible list of those providers was important to county representatives on the board. This list is the first of its kind and is available on the Nodaway County Health Department website.

This was a result of the Nodaway County Sequential Intercept Model Mapping event held in February where many different providers, first responders, organizations, community members and more came together to identify parts in the community where mental health resources are lacking and created action plans for ideas on how to bridge those gaps.

Atchison and Holt counties have just had one of the model mapping events of its own, and Rice said more of these meetings are to come in Gentry and Worth County where the community can give input about mental health resources and needs in the area.

“I am very passionate about this, and I’m very excited because just talking about it gets people excited,” Rice said. “And you see the collective, can-do attitude where we can get over this, we can get through this and help people.”

TELEHEALTH UNIT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Phase One - First Quarter	Phase Two - Jan. 15	Phase Three - March 18
Maryville Middle School Mound City R-11 Northeast Nodaway R-V North Nodaway R-VI Stanberry R-II Worth County R-III	St. Gregory Barbarigo Catholic School Craig R-III Jefferson C-123 Maryville High School North Nodaway R-VI	Eugene Field Elementary School King City R-I Nodaway-Holt R-VII South Holt R-I West Nodaway R-I

GRAPHIC BY SIDNEY LOWRY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Aug. 24

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Aug. 20
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Dieterich Hall.

Aug. 19
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law offense in Roberta Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law offense in Roberta Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a drug law offense in Parking Lot 9.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in South Complex.

Aug. 17
There is a closed investigation for stealing in South Complex.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Aug. 20
A summons was issued to **Quin D. Collins**, 21, for driving while intoxicated on the 1000 block of North Country Club Road.

Aug. 19
There was an accident between **Shaviyah R. Sese**, 19, and **Dino Moon** on the 1800 block of North Grand Avenue.
There is an ongoing investigation for stealing by deceit on the 2900 block of South Main Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for stealing by deceit on the 300 block of East Fifth Street.
A summons was issued to **Heaven N. Neal**, 20, for disorderly conduct and a minor in possession on the 600 block of South Saunders Street.
A summons was issued to **Montana J. Moffat**, 19, for minor in possession and improper display of license plates on the 100 block of South Market Street.

Aug. 18.
A summons was issued to **Samantha Dominguez**, 20, for minor in possession, littering and possession of a fake I.D. on the 200 block of West First Street.
A summons was issued to **Chad E. Behrens**, 43, for driving while intoxicated on the 2900 block of South Main Street.
A cell phone was recovered on the 700 block of West Edwards Street.

Aug. 17.
There was an accident between **Miguel A. Lorenzo**, 31, and **Briton J. Melton**, 21, on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Aug. 16.
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on Golf Tee Lane.
There was an accident between **Addison K. Baumgartner**, 19, and **Rachel T. Walker**, 21, on East Cooper Street and South Buchanan Street.
A summons was issued to **Faith A. Salas**, 30, for city code violations on the 800 block of East Fourth Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 100 block of North Vine Street.

Aug. 15
There was an accident between **Mary J. Scott**, 64, and **Bernard J. Riley**, 84, on West Edwards Street and South Main.
There was an accident between **Kristian B. Haupt**, 17, and **Lance W. Lewis** on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

PARKING

CONTINUED FROM A1

As for complaints with the new system, she said those concerns are being shared with the team that processes and deals with those changes, like the Northwest Leadership Team.
Assistant Vice President of Finance and Controller Mary Collins said the parking permit is an elective purchase for students, faculty and staff to make, but for students who may struggle with buying the parking permit can apply for assistance through the Pay It Forward Fund.
Students can apply for a withdrawal from the Pay It Forward Fund by applying on the Northwest website or going through the Student Affairs office of the J.W. Jones Student Union. Those applying must be a registered Northwest student, and the funding limit must be assessed by the Financial Aid Office and the Pay It Forward Committee. Employees are not eligible for funds.
“If people have issues purchasing, whether it’s they’ve registered for the wrong permit, or they need a refund or whatnot, they can always contact UPD,” Cullin said. “Send an email, either to the police account, or call in and we’ll work through that process with them.”

NW employees come together to discuss goals

HANNAH CLAYWELL
News Editor | @Hannah_9504

Northwest faculty and staff came together to discuss the 2023 fall semester and goals for the University at the All-Employee Meeting followed by the Academic Affairs discussion Aug. 16.
Provost Jamie Hooyman started the meeting with a short welcome to all who attended and introduced the speakers: Student Senate President Elizabeth Motazedi, Faculty Senate President Rhonda Beemer and Staff Council President Selena Foreman.
Motazedi discussed the Student Senate agenda and plan to get more students registered to vote. Beemer and Foreman both discussed initiatives, like focusing on wellness and well-being, and excitement for this year.
“Thank you for challenging yourself to continue to make yourself better and better professionals,” Hooyman said. “Because when we take care of ourselves, we can take care of our students much better.”
University President Lance Tatum also spoke to employees at the meeting. He said the retention rate of students has increased, and that is something he wants to continue working on while he is president.
“Since I stepped foot on campus June 1, I have been energized and inspired by the many individuals that I’ve had the great opportunity to meet who serve and support our University,” Tatum said.

Following the All-Employee Meeting, there was an Academic Affairs meeting to focus on the academic units and programs. Hooyman said initiative is one of the most important parts of improving Northwest academics. Areas like enrollment and recruitment had an emphasis placed on them to try to gain more students.
There is going to be a new scholarship model to try to recruit more out of state students and an analysis of recruitment spend.
Hayley Hanson, partner at Husch Blackwell LLP, addressed the employees to talk about recent Supreme Court cases in the U.S. that have changed some university policies, like scholarships conditions and accommodation requirements.
One of these cases include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the 14th Amendment, which discusses using race in admission processes. Another case was Title VII which prohibits religious discrimination.
A student’s race can no longer be the determining factor in obtaining scholarships, though it still can be considered. Accommodations, religious and academic, need to be made for students as long as it does not directly affect what the institution is required to do or put anyone else in danger.
Artificial intelligence was also a topic discussed at the meeting. Northwest does not have a policy regarding AI, but is working towards it. ChatGTP, a service people can use to improve their writing or generate text,



SIDNEY LOWRY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Provost Jamie Hooyman welcomes Northwest faculty and staff at the Aug. 16 All-Employee Meeting. At the event, employees were recognized with awards and many speakers from different areas of campus talked about initiatives for the 2023-24 school year.

has gained popularity, gaining 1 million users within five days of launching. Hanson said there now has to be a policy of what is academic dishonesty and what is not when using AI.
“This is just a kind of reminder that as you’re looking at all of your work that you need to do in Faculty Senate, look at AI and see what do we need to do to strengthen our policies as we look at how this different technology is going to be used,” Hanson said.
Following Hooyman’s presentation, several Northwest em-

ployees received awards for the past year. Hooyman said recognition is one of the most important parts of the Academic Affairs meeting, and she likes to recognize the effort employees have put in at Northwest.
“This is my favorite time...,” Hooyman said. “People come back, they’re excited, they’re ready to start the new year. And then move-in day and when you start seeing all the students walk around, it reminds you of why we do the things we do.”

PROBLEMS

CONTINUED FROM A1

The same is happening on the UCook kitchen side, previously known as Mongolian. The construction workers are working to get the seating area running again soon, but there is no set date.
Baker said the new vending machines are currently empty because they did not come with locks, but the locks are on the way and the machines should have product in them soon, the exact date is not known.
The vending machines will work differently than past years. Instead of the charge being added to a student’s account, it will now require the student to use their dining dollars, but students can still use other forms of payment, like cash and card, as well.
“Sodexo is working hard,” Viau said. “They’re going to have hiccups, they’re going to have things that somebody doesn’t like or somebody complains about, but they’re going to respond to those and fix those.”
As of now, all opening dates are tentative and subject to change.



ALLI DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
Mooyah and the Station’s POD Market have been closed down, gutted and barred off from the public. In lieu of Northwest’s new dining partner contract, a to-go version of the restaurant Buffalo Wild Wings is said to be on the way.

PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM A1

When students outside of Missouri are comparing different universities, many times it can come down to the cost. Tatum said this model is trying to level the playing field with other institutions to where it will be more affordable for out-of-state students to attend Northwest.
Though the model is not completely finalized, he said that likely within the next 30 days, more of the logistics would be worked out and would be broadcasted to the public more.
“When you look out my window, I’d like to be able to see people walking around, and that is truly the signal of what’s going well and what’s not going well,” he said. “So we’re going to put a lot of focus on the idea of appropriate out-of-state recruiting strategy, our overall recruiting strategy.”
Infrastructure
Many times in the last year, students would have a notification in their emails or their phones with a Bearcat Alert saying there is a steam tunnel leak or repairs taking place. These repairs would cause multiple buildings on campus to have limited access to hot water, including the residence halls.

In his address at the All-Employee Meeting, Tatum said he was planning an “aggressive” three-year-long plan to address infrastructure on campus following an underground tour of the tunnels on campus.
“I can tell you after that experience, it is clear to me that our central plant and tunnel infrastructure are at risk,” he said at the meeting. “... Our focus on improving infrastructure will be expensive, but to move our University forward without the risk of mission disruption, we must address the systems that keep our buildings and grounds operating.”
Tatum said infrastructure is something many universities have been careful with addressing the last several years because of the rising costs of supplies. Despite this, he thinks that Northwest can’t defer this maintenance any longer.
Northwest’s Central Plant contains a Centralized Building Automation System, a Chiller Plant, a Boiler Plant and tunnel distribution. Within this, the steam tunnels deliver heat to different parts of campus from a central area. Tatum thinks a distributed system will work better to make sure there are less buildings affected if a tunnel will have a leak.
“Steam is a very unstable product that has

to deal with the pressure that is inside those pipes is extreme because it’s you know, it’s steam, water vapor,” he said. “And so that constant pressure on those pipes weakens the structure and then they begin to pierce and rupture. When that happens, that has an impact on everything beyond that point.”
The steam tunnels aren’t the only priority Tatum has pinpointed, as water, storm-water, sewage, HVAC and other utilities are a part of his plan to address infrastructure. These will come in phases as many of these updates will be costly.
Money from these projects will come from a variety of sources, like state funding, loans and University reserves, which is money Northwest sits aside as a buffer to where costs may be more than the money generated from a given year.
“We’ll continue to work with the board on refining our plan of what the long term projects look like, but for the immediacy, it’s all focused on that central plant,” he said.
Though Tatum has been on campus for just over two months, he is waiting to have his inauguration event until spring, likely in April. As for now, he said he is ready for students to be back on campus and for academics to resume.



NIAH KAHLANDT PHOTOGRAPHER
A Forest Village parking pass is displayed on the rear view mirror of a student’s car. Northwest Bearcats are required to register their vehicles before purchasing their parking permits.

Making a plan can save a life, don't drive



SOPHIE WILLIAMS
Copy Editor
@williams2sophie

Every day, 32 people die from alcohol-impaired driving accidents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every 45 minutes, a person dies from a situation that could have been prevented. Every ability essential to operating a vehicle is affected when alcohol is consumed. The number of crash deaths involving alcohol-impaired drivers increased 14.9% from 2019 to 2020 with 11,654 deaths, 229 of them being children, according to the CDC.

Growing up in a small town, I didn't hear about drunken driving resulting in death often. That changed when two friends of mine left our small-town bar intoxicated April 9, 2022. They drove less than half a mile before going off the road and crashing into a ditch.

They weren't wearing seatbelts, and they died instantly from impact. They were both 19 years old.

I often take myself back to that moment before I found out, remembering the anxiety I felt.

I got a call from my boyfriend soon after I had heard about the wreck, and he told me who was in the accident. Many different thoughts were on my mind at that time. The first was one of my best friends I grew up with — the twin sister of one of the deceased.

I will never forget what she told me when she got the call from her father, telling her the news.

"I knew something was wrong right away because all I could hear was my mom screaming," she said.

A joint funeral was held at the high school we all attended together. It was in the same gym we graduated in less than two years before. The air was filled with an unbearable amount of hurt — there wasn't a single dry eye.

Drinking is often used as a fun way to socialize with your friends. It is used as a way to take a break from life and enjoy yourself. Though it's seen as a way to have fun, the decisions you make while intoxicated could be life changing — or life ending.

It's preventable — planning ahead is an important step that needs to be taken. When you are going to drink, have a ride lined up or plan to stay where you are at. If you are in a situation where you were unprepared, call somebody — anybody.

Northwest offers a program called "Safe Ride Home," which provides students with safe transportation — even late at night. This is something you should take advantage of if you are ever in a situation where you are unsafe to drive.

If this program isn't an option for you, waking someone up at 2 a.m. is worth it when you put it into the perspective of "What if they called instead of deciding to drive?" If it applies, call your parents. I know you think they'll be mad, but they would rather be upset with you than bury you.

The loss is avoidable. The grief doesn't have to happen, and lives will be saved. Please, don't drink and drive.



HAILEY JOHNSON-NEESER CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:

Prioritize your mental health while resources are available

At the start of every semester, college students are reminded to take care of themselves physically, emotionally and mentally. Typically, every campus offers a wide variety of mental health resources available to students — and for good reason.

College students deal with a multitude of different stressors in their day-to-day lives. They have to juggle a full class load, most likely a job or two and are still learning how to be an adult. Trying to balance work, school and a social life is hard, and a part of that is also taking care of their mental health.

A huge emphasis was placed on students' mental health following an increase in stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. More awareness surrounding mental wellness followed, which gave students the ability to take care of themselves without feeling guilty. Though the pandemic brought awareness, people should still prioritize their mental health and well-being.

College campuses provide resources such as on-site counselors, help lines and more, so students need to take advantage of them.

At Northwest, many resources are included with tuition, and students have access to buildings that include programs to help with all aspects of

their overall well-being. This includes the Wellness Center, the Foster Fitness Center, the Student Recreation Center, the Administration Building and the J.W. Jones Student Union, as well as a multitude of online videos and websites. It is vital that students understand the value of this variety of options.

After graduation, students will have to rely on insurance or pay out-of-pocket to use these types of support. The typical cost of a counseling session can range from \$65 to \$250 per session, according to Good Therapy, while a gym membership can average about \$70 per month, according to Statista.

Many adults, especially those fresh out of college, may find it difficult to have a budget where they are able to afford regular counseling, a gym membership and the ability to eat healthy. Students need to explore these options while they have access to them before it becomes expensive.

These resources are even more important for incoming freshmen. Transitioning from living at home to living in a dorm with strangers can be stressful and difficult. Living in an unfamiliar environment away from home for the first time is daunting and can play a huge factor in students' well-being. First-year students may face several obsta-

cles including isolation, homesickness, depression and more. In the first two weeks, as many as 75% of college freshmen reported feelings of loneliness, according to Accredited Schools Online.

There are also resources that anyone can access. Mental health is becoming more of a priority in northwest Missouri. Over a year ago, the Northwest Missouri Mental Health Cooperation was established to bridge the gap between the need for mental health assistance with the resources available. Within this, 16 schools across northwest Missouri are now getting telehealth units installed to overcome issues with accessibility to mental health providers and a comprehensive list of resources and providers is available for those seeking services.

The commitment to combating mental health issues is not limited to college campuses. Efforts like these show the importance of addressing mental health at all stages of life, especially while these resources are available to students at no additional cost.

While there may be a stigma around finding help regarding mental health, there are many resources on and off campus to seek support.

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES:

**THERAPY ASSISTANCE
ONLINE**
us.taoconnect.org/register

**NORTHWEST SUPPORT
LINE**
800.279.8188

**UNIVERSITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
660.562.1254

WELLNESS SERVICES
660.562.1348

NWBELL
campuswell.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

**MOSAIC BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH CLINIC**
660.562.4305

**NEW BEGINNINGS
COUNSELING CENTER**
660.562.3000

**FAMILY GUIDANCE
CENTER - MARYVILLE**
660.582.3139

**COMPASS COUNSELING
CENTER**
816.507.8896

**NORTHWEST HEALTH
SERVICES**
816.232.4417

**WEST NODAWAY FAMILY
MEDICINE**
660.725.3365

YOUR VIEW:

Do you know about the mental health resources available to you? Do you use them?

SCOTT BLANCHARD
Freshman
Psychology



"I know of a few as in different locations, but not the ones on campus."

YEMANE KIFLE
Sophomore
Accounting



"I don't use them. I know that we have like a counseling thing. But that's about all I know."

BRIANNA ZINK
Sophomore
Human Services



"I know about the Wellness Center that you can schedule appointments. I know there's mental health organizations on campus."

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SCRIMMAGE
CONTINUED FROM A8

The start of a new campaign is nearly here for Northwest. If the Bearcats are to extend their playoff record, and maybe claim a couple titles, the journey to do so starts with the Green and White Scrimmage.

While that will leave just seven days until the season-opener against the Lions, Wright said he thinks the play-

ers have progressed well in the offseason and preseason.

“I’ve really enjoyed this group,” Wright said. “We went from a year ago, as a very young team, to having a lot of young guys that played a ton of snaps that are back so they kind of understand the expectations, they understand both in terms of playing football at Northwest as well as what we demand practice wise.”

Hohensee said it’s been a great

preseason, and he’s enjoyed developing his role as a leader.

“I remember, you know, arriving on campus like it was the other day,” Hohensee said. “It’s crazy how fast it went by, but really it’s been great being able to help coach up all the other positions. This offseason, knowing it’s my last offseason, I’ve really gone into it. Really trying to be in the moment — each moment — and not trying to look too far ahead.”



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR
Junior Delton Davis runs down the field to gain the Spoofhounds a first down in the Aug. 18 jamboree after dodging an attempted tackle. Out of the three games played, Davis has only dropped one pass throughout the night.

JAMBOREE
CONTINUED FROM A1

“We’re all gas and no breaks every day,” Webb said

“We were lacking in that energy category,” Davis said, as he rocked from side to side on his feet after the jamboree.

Davis said he looks up to former Northwest football wide receiver and current Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Kaden Davis as a role model to motivate and lead as a team captain.

“Those guys are just crazy crazy talented,” Da-

vis said. He said while he only dropped one pass during the jamboree, he still wants to work on his catching and routes. He said he hopes his hard work will help motivate his teammates as well.

With 12 seniors leaving the team after this season, Webb said he feels confident with his team’s abilities.

“We’re in great hands,” Webb said. “I’m pleased with where we are at on offense and defense. I’ve been coaching now for a long time and won a lot of football games and lost some games. I feel very confident and excited about the 2023 versions of those events.”



ALLI DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER
The Bearcat volleyball team practice for their upcoming season in Bearcat Arena. The team aims to bring as much energy to practice as possible this year.

SUCCESS
CONTINUED FROM A8

Luhring said something that stands out to her about this year’s team as compared to previous seasons is the confidence that this year’s team has in each other.

“We’re just really deep this year,” Luhring said. “I’m confident we could put anyone in, and we would play just as good as our starters.”

Junior outside hitter Payton Kirchhoefer also said the team this year is very energetic.

“We just bring a lot of energy all the time, even at practice,” Kirchhoefer said. “Our coaches have noticed that we’re kind of psycho in the energy department, which is a good thing to have.”

The players and coaches are adapting to competing again after a long offseason. They must shift from a summer mindset to a competitive mindset.

Woerth is now in her 11th season coaching for Northwest, so she has some experience getting athletes in rhythm with the season. She said the team has looked good in the preseason so far, but there are a few things that still need more development before the season begins.

“Being better out of (our) system,” Woerth said. “We’re not always going to be in the system, so we have to be able to take a ball that’s out of system and still get a kill. They’re extremely hard workers. They don’t ask anybody to do it for them, they do it themselves.”

The Bearcats will start off the regular season at the Rockhurst/William Jewell Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri and Liberty, Missouri. The Bearcats will face off against Kentucky Wesleyan, a team they have never faced before, for their first match 10 a.m. Sept. 1 in the Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse.



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Junior forward Adell Gore swerves around a Missouri Southern player while trying to score. Gore scored a total of 11 goals during the 2022 season.

Northwest looks to ‘define itself’

STEVEN CROSBY
Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

Coming back from one of its best seasons yet after competing in its second ever NCAA Tournament, Northwest soccer is gearing up for the 2023 season.

Northwest is looking to grow from its success from the last two seasons after the NCAA Tournament appearance, making it to the semifinals in the MIAA Tournament and a successful regular season that included an eight-game win streak. Coach Marc Gordon said he’s excited for the opportunity to improve.

“This is the 2023 team, and it’s going to define itself,” Gordon said. “We just hope that it’s defined in the sense that we’ve had some growth, and we’ve moved forward.”

Junior midfielder Hannah Stirling said she has her own goals for the new season.

“Beating some of those really hard opponents that we’ve had in past years would be a huge goal for us,” Stirling said. “Also, just excelling in every match.”

When talking about strengths the team has this year, Stirling said there is a talented group of freshmen coming into the program. She said there are a lot of new athletes on the team with a lot of speed.

Gordon said the amount of familiar faces will be a big benefit. Junior defender Ashton Dain said many players have spent a lot of time with each other on the field.

“We have a lot of returning players from last year’s roster,” Gordon said. “I think we have a little more depth in some positions throughout the field, just through more experience of being involved.”

“A lot of us have already played togeth-

er for a lot of the time on the field,” Dain said. “So just getting some of the players acclimated, but still keeping our team chemistry high is great and a strength for us this season.”

The Bearcats will kick off their season 5 p.m. Sept. 1 when they visit the Missouri - St. Louis Tritons. The Bearcats faced the Tritons for the first time last season and won 3-1.

The Bearcats will stay in St. Louis until Sept. 3 where they will take on the Drury Panthers at noon. The Bearcats played Drury twice since 2019, and both matches ended in a draw.

The Bearcats will then have a stretch of three games at home. The first home game for the team will be against the Augustana Vikings 3 p.m. Sept. 8. The last matchup between the Bearcats and Vikings was in 2019 and resulted in a 2-3, Viking victory. The series record between the two teams is 2-2.

The second home game for the Bearcats — the last game before conference play — will be against the Sioux Falls Cougars Sept. 10. The Bearcats are 6-0 against the Cougars all time, with their last matchup being a 4-0

Bearcat victory in 2022.

The Bearcats will begin conference play against the Missouri Western Griffons 3 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Bearcat Pitch.

“

A lot of us have already played together for a lot of the time on the field. So just getting some of the players acclimated, but still keeping our team chemistry high is great and a strength for us this season.”

ASHTON DAIN
JUNIOR DEFENDER



GRAPHIC BYJULIANNA LAWRENCE ASST. DESIGN EDITOR

Spoofhound volleyball starts season with new leadership

WESLEY MILLER
Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

The end of volleyball practice is nothing new to Alyssa Rezac. Standing along the sideline of the Maryville High School gym Aug. 22, she has time to collect herself after another afternoon practice, but she also has time to reflect on all those years she’s dedicated to volleyball.

While she started her journey through volleyball with Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo, Nebraska, just a year ago Rezac would’ve been finishing up practice as an athlete just up the street from Maryville High School.

From 2019-22, Rezac was a setter for Northwest volleyball. She was named the 2022 MIAA Player of the Year, given an American Volleyball Coaches Association third-team All-America selection, earned two first-team all-MIAA honors and helped the Bearcats to two consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. After all the work she put in as an athlete, it was announced in May that she would be taking on a different aspect of volleyball as the Maryville volleyball coach.

“After working with the college girls and doing well with them, I thought I could teach these girls,” Rezac said. “The community in Maryville was always wonderful as a player, and it’s a great place to be a coach.

I’m extremely happy to be here.”

While Rezac has to adjust from one volleyball team in Maryville to the other, the athletes she’s now entrusted with have to adapt to a new coach. Formations, drills, gameplans and even the amount of water breaks can change with a new coach.

Senior rightside hitter Ava Dumke knows all too well about being forced to adjust. She missed the entirety of the 2022 season due to a torn ACL. She’s now having to adapt to playing volleyball again and a new coach.

“

I’m extremely happy to be here.”

ALYSSA REZAC
COACH

“It’s been tough, but I think we can go places, and I think coach Rezac can help us get there,” Dumke said.

The senior said being stuck on the sideline for a whole season gave her a new perspective. She said she really wants to focus on just enjoying herself and thinking about life outside of volleyball in her final season.

“What I want my teammates to know is we don’t get to play this forever, so we need to make the most of it,” Dumke said.

The Spoofhounds’ preseason is nearing its end after the team had its first chance of the season to compete against other squads in the jamboree Aug. 21 in Lawson, Missouri. A jamboree gives players, coaches and fans a chance to see their team against another team without official statistics or results.

Maryville competed against Lawson, Smithville and Chillicothe. The Spoofhounds will meet the Hornets again Oct. 12. Rezac said she doesn’t want to give away too many secrets about what weaknesses and strengths she saw, but she said there’s a lot of easy fixes.

“Honestly, it was just good to see our girls play against somebody else and see kind of our weaknesses and where we need to continue to grow,” Rezac said.

“At first, it was really nerve-racking, and you could see a lot of our girls become a little timid, but the more we played, the better we were,” Dumke said.

Maryville will begin the new season against St. Joseph-Benton Aug. 28 in St. Joseph. The Spoofhounds will be seeking revenge after the Cardinals eliminated Maryville from the 2022 Class 3 District 16 Tournament with a 3-1 loss Oct. 24.

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New face, familiar place

Maryville volleyball prepares for start of season with former Bearcat at helm. see A7

SPORTS

Aug. 24, 2023 | @NWMSports

Back on the pitch Northwest soccer coach looks for team to find its identity. see A7



FILE Peyton Carder and Trevon Alexander celebrate on the field after Northwest scores a touchdown. The Northwest football team is geared up for the new season starting Aug. 31 against Missouri Southern in Joplin, Missouri.

NW football set for scrimmage

WESLEY MILLER Managing Editor | @wesleymiller360

Mike Hohensee was just a sophomore when he made his first collegiate start at quarterback for Northwest football in a 47-7 win over Central Missouri in Week 3 of the 2021 season. Now, 33 starts later, he's a senior, but he's not in any rush to get to the end. "I'm really just going into it one day at a time," Hohensee said. "Just really enjoying the moment and living in the moment and trying not to look too far ahead and taking it day by day trying to get better each and every day." While Hohensee may be taking it one day at a time, the Bearcat fans have been counting down until the start of the new season, and it's nearly here. The official kickoff to the regu-

lar season isn't until Week 1 when Northwest will travel to play Missouri Southern at 7 p.m. Aug. 31 in Joplin, Missouri. However, coaches, players and fans will have a chance to see their team in a game-like setting with the annual Green and White Scrimmage at 7 p.m. Aug. 24 in Bearcat Stadium. Heading into the scrimmage, seventh-year coach Rich Wright said he's checking to make sure the team's transitions are clean. Hohensee said it will be great to be in front of the fans again, and he's focused on finding a flow for the game. "You know, executing, not having to take timeouts, not having false starts, not having people jump offsides in the neutral zone, making sure that the punt team has everybody out there that they need to have, you know, with all the transitions that go on in a col-

lege football game," Wright said. "And then it's to try and gain some experience, frankly, from our (second string)." "We're all excited to get out there in front of a home crowd again," Hohensee said. "It's gonna be good to see our depth also and see how the younger guys end up playing and executing because, offensively, our main focus is execution." The Bearcats inked 32 new players on National Signing Day Feb. 1. Through summer camps and preseason practice, the younger players have their first chance to familiarize themselves with the system of the team. They also have chances to work with more experienced teammates. One of Northwest's biggest groups on signing day was at the receiver position. The team added four new wideouts, after sign-

ing eight on National Signing Day in 2022. Even with a lot of youth in the receiver corps, Hohensee said his connections with his pass catchers feels good ahead of the preseason scrimmage. "We've done a great job working on timing and talking through different scenarios of how defenses might play us and just talking about where those routes will fit in certain zones and what to do against man," Hohensee said. "So, it's been great to be able to talk through all those scenarios with all the guys and not only the starters." Northwest finished 10-3 in the 2022 season. While the Bearcats did not claim the MIAA title, they did extend their Division II record of 18 consecutive playoff appearances.

SEE SCRIMMAGE | A6

Recent success to guide, motivate Bearcat volleyball

STEVEN CROSBY Sports Reporter | @sicsteve27

Northwest volleyball is preparing to be back in action after a historic 2022 campaign. The Bearcats are hoping to continue on the success they had in 2022 after winning the MIAA regular season title for the first time in program history and made the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. Coach Amy Woerth said the goals of this season's team remains pretty much the same as every year. "We want to have a 20-win season, we want to win conference, we want to win the conference tournament and then get past the second round," Woerth said. "Those are always our goals, and they're going to stay the same as last year and every year. So, rising to those is going to be very important for us." Junior libero Kyah Luhning was able to gain a lot of experience in 2022 while playing in 50 matches. She said a goal for the team is to have good energy to help the team get better. "The biggest goal right now is just to bring energy every practice," Luhning said. "Pretty much get better every practice, especially during the preseason." Luhning helped the pro-



ALLI DUARTE PHOTOGRAPHER Sophomore middle blocker Kate Frakes spikes the ball over the net at practice Aug. 22. The team hopes to continue on with its success from the 2022 season and its MIAA title.

gram to its second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance, earning 50 assists and 329 digs with her efforts in 50 matches. Luhning said something that stands out to her about this year's team as compared to previous seasons is the confidence that this year's team has in each other.

SEE SUCCESS | A6

Maryville hosts jamboree, readies for season opener

DESTINY TAYLOR Sports Reporter | @destinytay04

The bleachers will groan as the crowd leans toward the action on the field with anticipation building. Piercing screams and cheers will fill the atmosphere. This is one of many scenes that will soon be at the 'Hound Pound as the Maryville football season is about to begin. The Spoofhounds ended their last season with a record of 8-4 while averaging 40.3 points per game. Kicking off this season on the gridiron, Maryville participated in its first home jamboree in 13 years. Coach Matt Webb posted on his personal Twitter page, "BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!" to inform the public of the event. He said hosting a jamboree was a perfect opportunity for his athletes with their experience. Maryville hosted William Chrisman, Center and Raytown South. "These kids know how to win football games," Webb said. While the jamboree is unofficial, the Spoofhounds went on to add two more wins and one tie to their experience. Success is nothing new to Webb and the Spoofhounds. Maryville has won 132 games since 2012 and lost a mere 18. It has played in the state championship five times, bringing home three titles. Webb said he is excited



ALEXIS STARKS PHOTO EDITOR Senior wide receiver Wyatt Garner leaps in the air to catch the ball to score a touchdown against Center at the Aug. 18 jamboree. With this matchup ending in a tie, the Spoofhounds final was one win, one loss and one tie.

about the "new crop" of athletes who have joined the team to show them the traditions and success of Maryville. He said he also wants to help them navigate the schedule and routine of high school. Senior wide receiver and team captain Delton Davis said he's also excited to see the new players in action. "I think they're going to do great for years to come," Davis said with his fingers curled around the collar of his shoulder pads. "They're excited to get out there and put on the Spoofhound uniform and make plays themselves," Webb said. The Spoofhounds kick off the season against Blair Oaks Aug. 25 in Warrensburg, Mis-

UP NEXT

MHS vs. Blair Oaks 7 p.m. Aug. 25 Warrensburg, Missouri

souri. Maryville hasn't won against Blair Oaks since 2017 in the Class 3 State Tournament. The Spoofhounds have lost five consecutive season-openers to the Falcons. Webb said the energy leading into the season is solid as the days count down to the season opener against Blair Oaks. Davis said he wants to build up the energy more.

SEE JAMBOREE | A6



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